

Iron County Register

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IRON LODGE, No. 107, I. O. O. F., meets every Monday at its hall, corner Main and Madison streets. A. F. VANCE, N. 3. E. D. AKE, Recording Secretary.

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C. C. DINGER, C. R. PECK, Camp Commander.

PILOT KNOB. PILOT KNOB LODGE, No. 253, A. O. U. W., meets every 2d and 4th Friday evenings, 7:30 P. M., upstairs in Union Church.

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Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.

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NUMBER 37.

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The First Mockingbird.

Time was he would not sing, though fledged and flown; It sang dwelt with him, such he seemed to hoard. For while the birds sang 'till the world adored, He perched apart mute, listening, alone. Then of his silence all impatient grown, Love marvelled that the sunlight like a sword Did slay him not. But in his soul was stored A sweeter song than Love had ever known.

And when Day's merry choirs were gone And Night dreamed in the valleys sweet and still, Sudden a glad lark heralded the dawn, And piped a robin to a whip-poor-will; And Love—while clear the silver notes were ringing, Listened entranced. * * * The Mocking bird was singing!

—FRANK L. STANTON.

Old Times.

Ed. Register—A few days ago, I was down to see my old friend, Isaac Smith, and of course we drifted on to the old subject of our hunting days, when the mountains, the hills and the valleys were full of all kinds of wild animals and wild fowl, and of our experience with each and all kinds of game; what things we had seen in our hunt, and of the habits of each as we happened to think of them. I never met with an old hunter but his thoughts were always on the woods. Like sailors who have spent their lives on the ocean, they are never satisfied on land, they always want to go back to the sea. Just so with a man who has followed a life in the woods, he is always hungry to get back in the solitudes of nature where there is rest.

This morning I feel restless; I want to go to some wild mountain country where the footstep of man have never trod, and where the country is full of game. Oh, I feel as though I would give all the worldly comforts for a few more years of wild life, where I could kill my game, and at night build me up a fire and roast my meat, and lie down, wrapped in my blanket, and sleep the sleep that comes of a good day's hunt. Oh, give me back once more the scenes I have seen, and I would die contented.

One of the things spoken of, was every hunter knows a squirrel never lays up food for future use, but goes whenever he is hungry. That squirrel comes out of his hole, and in the winter with the ground covered with snow, he does not stop for that, but with slow, easy jumps he hops along on the snow, every now and then stops, sits up and looks around. After a careful survey he stops, and with his paws digs a hole down through the snow in to the leaves, and here he brings a nut or an acorn to light, and he never makes a mistake. I have stood many and many a time and watched them to see if they would find a nut or an acorn, and I never saw a squirrel make a mistake. Now how did that squirrel know just where to look for that nut? Did he smell it through all that depth of snow? A great many people think a squirrel lays up a winter's supply of nuts and other kinds of food. If they do, I never saw it, nor never heard of any one that did so. Sometimes there comes a snow, then sleet, which covers the ground with a covering so thick and hard, no squirrel can dig through the covering. I have seen at such times, where they go to some dead tree (and there are always plenty of dead trees in the woods); under the outside bark of such a tree, a fungus or mushroom grows that squirrels are very fond of. I have seen the snow covered with the dead bark where it has been pulled off while in search of that food. I have often tasted those things and I found they were good.

Now a chipmunk is different from a squirrel; a chipmunk never comes out of his burrow in the ground, during the cold months of winter. But he is not asleep all this while, for he has been very diligent all the fall gathering nuts and acorns, and drying apples, for he is fond of a variety of food. I have, in the dead of winter, seen the stores laid up by those little fellows torn open, and how carefully he had laid them up.

I remember one winter when I was small, father had a piece of woods chopped off, as he wanted to cultivate the ground. In felling a very large tree, one of the limbs when the tree fell broke and went in the ground and tore up the ground for quite a large place. Unfortunately, the limb happened to hit the place where a chipmunk had laid by his winter store, and such a sight! There nicely packed away in dry moss and dry leaves were about six or eight quarts of chestnuts, beschnuts and acorns, and those nuts were just as dry and nice as could be. The beach

nuts were all hulled, the nuts just as white and clean, and they were delicious.

And then a squirrel is migratory; if food becomes scarce, they hie away to some other country. I remember some fifteen or twenty years ago, the squirrels' food was very scarce in all this part of the country, and the squirrels, as if by common consent, made a move en masse, for another country; they could be seen by the hundreds, all headed north. Across fields and along the fences, hundreds and hundreds were killed. Every boy and man that had a gun, was banging away at them. And it lasted for several days, before they had all gone. In a few weeks we saw from the papers, thousands and thousands of squirrels had made their appearance in Wisconsin and Michigan. Now how did those squirrels know where to go? and how did they cross all the streams of water? Now they had to cross the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, besides hundreds of smaller streams. Do squirrels and other animals have the means of conveying the news, or does instinct or whatever you may call it, give them the knowledge? Do animals think, reason, have opinions, laws, manners and customs?

Among the things we spoke of, do they have crimes and punishments? I told him I had a number of times, after being out killing squirrels, when I came to dress them, found one neither male nor female. I could not understand it, until one morning about this time of the year, I was out hunting squirrels; I could not find any in all that part of the wood, and I knew there ought to be lots of them. After hunting awhile, I heard a noise as if all the squirrels in the country had got together. I went the way the sound came from, and as I got nearer, the noise increased.

When I got in sight of where the noise came from, I saw up in a large tree such a sight! The tree was fairly covered with squirrels, and such a noisy set, running up and down all about among the limbs of the tree, every fellow trying to see how much noise he could make. Out on a large limb I saw a bunch of about a dozen, all in a pile. I said to myself, what under the sun are those fellows doing? As I looked, I saw they had one on his back, and about a half a dozen holding him down, and two or three seemed to be doing all the talking, but I saw one very busy at work. All this time the fellow on his back was squealing to the best of his abilities, and all the rest in the tree were keeping up a regular fuss. After a little the crowd began to disperse, and those that had been at work, went off and left one poor, sick looking chap by himself. After the rest had all gone, I said now I am going to see what they have been doing to you. So I shot his eyes out, and when I went and picked up the squirrel, I found he had been unsexed or castrated just as nice as a surgeon could have done it. When I told Isaac about it, he said, 'I have heard a good many old hunters speak of it, but I never noticed it myself.'

'Now, do those animals have laws like humans? We know that most all animals have families, wives and children, if I may call it so, and hold social relations. Audubon, the great naturalist, speaks of seeing a crow trial and a crow execution, and of other animals, of rogue elephants, of mad buffalo bulls, all of which have been driven out of the society of their own kind. Are they subjects liable to crimes and punishments, like the human family? A man who lives among the wild animals has a good opportunity to see and learn many things of nature, which people in the common walks of life do not learn. They see things, that to the average man seem unreasonable, and strange, but for all that, these things are so, for all the unbeliever. I have seen things that if I had not seen them, I might have my doubts if some one else had told me, and yet might be all true.

T. P. R.

The West End of Iron County, Mo.

NUMBER ONE.

There are already several correspondents to the REGISTER from this district, but there is a large field yet unutilized.

What territory is covered by the West End of Iron County?

The district includes township thirty-four and the south half of township thirty-five, north, of range one west of the fifth Principal Meridian; township thirty-four and the south half of township thirty-five, north, range one west, and the east half of township thirty-four and the southeast one-fourth of township thirty-five, north, range two west of the fifth Principal Meridian. The total area is 135 sections.

This may be a good time to explain principal meridians, townships and

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ranges, as the popular knowledge of these terms is by no means so general and accurate as might be supposed.

In preparing to survey the land in a territory, a government surveyor selects some point naturally immovable and from it runs a line by the compass due north, extended indefinitely. This is a principal meridian, because surveys are reckoned upon and from it. He then selects some other naturally fixed point and from it extends a due east and west line indefinitely, but crossing the meridian. This is a base line. Starting at the point where the meridian and the base line intersect, the territory is run off into blocks six miles square, called townships. These are numbered north or south on the meridian from the base line. The ranges or rows of townships are numbered on the base line east or west of the meridian. Thus if we say township thirty-four, north, range one east, it is meant that the north line of that township is thirty-four times six, or two hundred and four miles north of the base line, and that the principal meridian is the westline of that township. In establishing principal meridians no attention is paid to the distance from Greenwich or Washington. So much on the general subject of principal meridians and base lines.

The fifth principal meridian, which governs the surveys in Missouri and Arkansas, starts on the east side of the mouth of the Arkansas River and runs north. From a point on the Mississippi River north of the mouth of the Arkansas another line is run due west, crossing the state of Arkansas about ten miles south of Little Rock. This is the base line.

It so happens that the fifth principal meridian is just one mile west of the 91st degree of longitude west from Greenwich and fourteen from Washington.

The line last named bounds the east side of the town plat of Centerville, in Reynolds county.

Hoping that this digression may not be unprofitable, the thread of description will be resumed.

The West End of Iron county saddles the crest of the Ozark mountains at an average elevation of about 1200 feet above the sea.

The highest land in Missouri has an elevation of 1600 feet, and is just outside of the district, being in township 34, north, range 2 east.

When it is remembered that a mountain crest divides the district and that numerous spurs project on each side of the crest, it will be understood that the surface of the district is very much broken.

The southern slope of the district is drained by the heads of the Middle Fork of Black River, the northern slope by the waters of the Meramec.

As the Ozark Mountains are the great topographical feature of the district, will the readers of the REGISTER excuse another digression, describing their relation to the physical geography of North America.

This range of mountains is framed in as a triangular brace between the Height of Land, which separates the Valley of the Mississippi from the Great Lakes on the north, and the Rocky Mountains on the west and connects with the Appalachians in the east, thus forming the connecting link between all the mountain systems. This idea has been reduced to a demonstration.

On the night of November 18th, 1878, Southeast Missouri had an earthquake. The disturbance had one long and one short axis at right angles with each other.

The short one started in Boone county, Missouri, and ran to Huntsville, in Alabama. The long axis commenced in the Height of Land south of Chicago, and, following the trend of the Ozarks, went to the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. About 150,000 miles of country had a lively shaking up. But having thus connected the West End of Iron county with the physical geography of North America it may be well to await developments.

THOMAS CALAHAN, Foote, Iron county, Mo.

All the elements which nature requires, to make the hair beautiful and abundant, are supplied in Ayer's Hair Vigor. This preparation keeps the scalp free from dandruff, prevents the hair from becoming dry and harsh, and makes it flexible and glossy.

Abrogate the Russian Treaty.

The Memphis Appeal Association calls the Russian treaty "a foul blot on the honor of this Government," and every friend of liberty and humanity will indorse the denunciation.

But what are we to do about it? Are we to content ourselves with denouncing Harrison and the treacherous Senators who voted with him to bring this shame and disgrace on the American people? Or are to demand that this treaty, which throws the influence of the United States against liberty in Russia, shall be abrogated?

Let that demand be made and let it be reiterated until it is complied with.

If we are not to hold with Thomas Jefferson and Oliver Cromwell that "resistance to tyrants is obedience to God," let us at least refuse to take sides with such tyrants in oppressing their slaves.

The Czar of Russia is a despot and an oppressor. No one in America can deny it, and not even the Senators who voted to uphold him in his despotism will deny that he is the worst oppressor in Europe.

The man who oppresses another, or attempts to do it, does it at his own risk. If he is killed in doing it, it is because of his own crimes. Of all crimes, that of oppressing a whole people is the worst and more deserving of the penalty of death than any other.

It is not our part to pass sentences on the Russian despot. Nor if he should be killed by the maddened victims of his despotism is it our part to hunt them down and hang them to be knouted and hanged that despotism may be made the more terrible and the more secure through terrorism.

It is this that the cowards of the Senate have voted behind their closed doors that we shall be compelled by law to do. There is not a man of them, brave enough to take upon himself, by openly acknowledging his vote, the infamy he has attempted to fix on the American people. Not one of all those who voted for this treaty will say openly, as he has said by his vote in secret, that the American people should become slave catchers for one of the most odious of the tyrants who disgrace the earth.

Behind the closed doors of the Senate many un-American, unmanly, mean and cowardly votes have been cast, but the vote that confirmed this treaty was the most un-American, the most cowardly, the meanest, the most unmanly. And we do most sincerely hope that before the end of the Senatorial term of six years every one of these sympathizers with despotism and cruelty will be driven into ignominious retirement. In the meantime let this treaty be abrogated. It is infamous. It must not stand.—*Republic*.

Rheumatism Quickly Cured.

Three days is a very short time in which to cure a bad case of rheumatism; but it can be done, if the proper treatment is adopted, as will be seen by the following from James Lambert, of New Brunswick, Ill.: 'I was badly afflicted with rheumatism in the hips and legs, when I bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It cured me in three days. I am all right to-day; and would insist on every one who is afflicted with that terrible disease to use Chamberlain's Pain Balm and get well at once. 50 cent bottles for sale by F. R. CRISP, Druggist.'

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